

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations  
and is not a part of the Official Record

## **BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,  
please do not report the images to the  
Image Problem Mailbox.**

What is claimed is:

1. A device management system comprising:

a section for connecting a network device so that it can communicate with the system, and wherein:

5       when device information regarding said network device is received, functions available to said network device are determined based on said device information, and, based on the determination, a function provision module that is applied to said network device to provide it with a function is sent to  
10   said network device.

2. A device management system which connects a network device with a device management terminal that manages said network device so that they can communicate with each other, comprising:

15       said device management terminal including a module storing section for storing a function provision module that is applied to said network device to provide it with functions, a device information receiving section for receiving device information regarding said network device, a function determining section  
20   for determining a function provision module that has a function available to said network device based on said device information received by said device information receiving section, a module reading section for reading said function provision module determined by said function determining section from said module  
25   storing section, and a module sending section for sending said

function provision module read by said module reading section to said network device, and

5       said network device including a device information storing section for storing said device information, a device information sending section for sending said device information stored by said device information storing section to said device management terminal, a module receiving section for receiving said function provision module, and a module executing section for executing the function provision module received by said module receiving  
10       section.

3.     The device management system according to Claim 2, wherein a plurality of said network devices are connected so that they can communicate with the system, and

15       said function provision module is a module that realizes a function that is provided by at least two of said network devices working in combination.

4.     The device management system according to Claim 3, wherein  
20       said network device includes a device information acquisition section for obtaining device information for another network device other than itself from that network device among said plurality of network devices, and

      wherein said device information sending section sends  
25       device information stored in said device information storing

section and device information obtained by said device information acquisition section to said device management terminal.

5     5.    The device management system according to Claim 4, wherein  
          said device management terminal includes a function  
          selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of  
          the functions corresponding to the function provision module  
          determined by said function determining section, and

10        wherein said module reading section reads out a function  
          provision module that corresponds to a function selected by the  
          function selecting section from said module storing section.

15     6.    The device management system according to Claim 4, wherein  
          said network device includes a function selecting section  
          that allows a user to select one or more of the functions  
          corresponding to the function provision module determined by  
          said function determining section, and

20        wherein said module reading section reads out a function  
          provision module that corresponds to a function selected by said  
          function selecting section from said module storing section.

25     7.    The device management system according to Claim 6, wherein  
          said function selecting section generates a GUI screen on  
          which one can select one or more of the functions corresponding

to the function provision module determined by said function determining section and presents the GUI screen to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions.

- 5 8. The device management system according to Claim 6, wherein said device management terminal includes a selection interface generating section for generating a selection interface through which one can select one or more of the functions corresponding to function provision module determined by said function determining section, and

wherein said function selecting section presents the selection interface generated by said selection interface generating section to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions.

15

9. The device management system according to Claim 6, wherein said network device includes a selection interface generating section for generating a selection interface through which one can select one or more of the functions corresponding to function provision module determined by said function determining section, and

20 wherein said function selecting section presents the selection interface generated by said selection interface generating section to the user so that the user can select one  
25 or more of the functions.

10. The device management system according to Claim 9, wherein  
said device information includes device type identification  
information that identifies the type of said network device,  
5 and

wherein said function determining section determines a  
function provision module that has a function available to said  
network device based on a function registration table that stores  
functions associated with said device type identification  
10 information.

11. The device management system according to Claim 10, wherein  
said device type identification information is a device  
type ID that uniquely identifies the type of said network device,  
15 and

said function determining section determines a function  
provision module that has a function available to said network  
device based on a function registration table that stores  
functions associated with said device type IDs.

20

12. The device management system according to Claim 11, wherein:  
said module storing section stores said function provision  
module as associated with user ID,

said device management terminal includes a user ID receiving  
25 section for receiving said user ID, a second module reading

section for reading a function provision module corresponding to a user ID received by said user ID receiving section from said module storing section, and a second module sending section for sending said function provision module read by said second module reading section to said network device, and

said network device including a user ID storing section for storing a user ID, and a user ID sending section for sending the user ID stored in said user ID storing section to said device management terminal.

10

13. The device management system according to Claim 12, wherein:

said device management terminal includes a provision limiting section for limiting provision of a function provision module, and

15

wherein said provision limiting section prevents a function provision module that has been once provided to said network device based on said user ID from being provided for a re-access based on the same user ID.

20

14. The device management system according to Claim 12, wherein

said device management terminal includes a provision limiting section for limiting provision of a function provision module, and

25

wherein said provision limiting section defines the provision range of function provision module for each of said

user ID, and prevents provision of a function provision module that has been provided to the network device based on said user ID beyond the provision range defined for the user ID.

5 15. A device management terminal connected to a network device so that it can communicate with the network device, comprising  
a module storing section for storing function provision  
module that is applied to said network device to provide it with  
functions, a device information receiving section for receiving  
10 device information regarding said network device, a function  
determining section for determining a function provision module  
that has a function available to said network device based on  
said device information received by said device information  
receiving section, a module reading section for reading the  
15 function provision module determined by said function  
determining section from said module storing section, and a module  
sending section for sending said function provision module read  
by said module reading section to said network device.

20 16. A network device connected to a device management terminal so that they can communicate with each other, comprising  
a device information storing section for storing the device  
information regarding a network device, a device information  
sending section for sending the device information stored by  
25 said device information storing section to said device management



terminal, a module receiving section for receiving a function provision module that is applied to the network device to provide it with a function, and a module executing section for executing the function provision module received by said module receiving section.

17. A programmable computer that is connected to a network device so that they can communicate with each other, comprising:

said computer having a memory containing a terminal program for causing said computer to execute processing that is realized as a device information receiving section for receiving device information regarding said network device, a function determining section for determining a function provision module that has a function available to said network device based on said device information received by said device information receiving section, a module reading section for reading the function provision module determined by said function determining section from said module reading section, and a module sending section for sending said function provision module read by said module reading section to said network device.

18. A programmable computer that is connected to a network device so that they can communicate with each other, comprising:

said computer having a memory containing a terminal program causing said computer to execute processing that is realized

as a device information sending section for sending device information stored by a device information storing section to a device management terminal, a module receiving section for receiving a function provision module that is applied to the  
5 computer to provide it with a function, and a module executing section for executing the function provision module received by said module receiving section.

19. A device management method for connecting a network device  
10 so that it can communicate and managing said network device, comprising:

when device information regarding said network device is received, functions available to said network device are determined based on the device information, and based on the  
15 determination, a function provision module that is applied to said network device to provide it with a function is sent to said network device.